



# architects

a publication of the california architects board ■ public protection through examination, licensure, and regulation



SPRING 2008

## Volunteers Recognized

### 2007 Octavius Morgan Distinguished Service Award

Each year, the California Architects Board selects several volunteers to receive the Octavius Morgan Distinguished Service Award. "The award is our way of acknowledging the hard work and dedication of the volunteers who give so much of their time and expertise to the Board," says Jon Alan Baker, president of the Board. Following are profiles of the 2007 award winners.

#### John Canestro *Castro Valley*

As an engineer who has been a building official for much of his professional life, John Canestro brings a unique perspective to his volunteer work with the Board. In addition to serving as a public Board member from 1997 to 2001, Canestro has served on the Board's Regulatory and Enforcement Committee (REC) for many years. In selecting him to receive an Octavius Morgan Award, the Board acknowledged his outstanding contributions as chair and member of the REC.

Canestro recalls how his affiliation with the Board first began. "I was on the Building Standards Commission for 12½ years," he explains. "When my term ended, I was asked if I wanted to join another board. I selected the Architects Board because as a former building official, I enjoyed working with architects, and I heard that it was an excellent board."

During his tenure as a Board member, the Board began holding focus groups with representatives of related professions, including building officials and general contractors. A focus group for architects was also held. "The groups gave the professionals an opportunity to share concerns about regulations and to obtain information about key Board activities," says Canestro. "They were used to help develop solutions to difficulties that resulted from Board regulations and other statutes."

As a result of the focus groups, Board consultants established a more formal approach to disseminating information to architects and others. "The dialog that took place within the focus groups led to better interactions between architects and the professionals they work with regularly," says Canestro.

During the 1970s, Canestro served for five years as an officer of California



John Canestro



Gerald Cole



Michelle Plotnik

Continued on page 3



## President's Message

By Jon Alan Baker, Board President

Throughout the year, the Board places great focus on the licensure examination process and the enforcement of our licensing laws to protect the interests of the public. But among the Board's areas of jurisdiction, none is more important than that of education. Educating the next generation of practitioners is the fundamental foundation of our profession. It is where we can have an effect on the quality of the profession's "raw materials" before they are tested and released into practice.

In support of this mission, the Board and the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) are working closely to address important issues that will be considered at the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) Accreditation Review Conference scheduled for October. This is a critically important opportunity to influence the educational process and improve the quality and relevance of education for future generations. As a consequence, future candidates who graduate and are eligible for licensure will be better equipped to meet the needs of the profession and the demands that they will face.

The Board commends NCARB for its focus on NAAB conditions for accreditation, and has conveyed its strong support for reinforcing several critical areas of education beginning with professional practice and code knowledge. Also, strengthening technical skills and the knowledge of building systems, structures, and materials is critical to the "craft" of architecture. These skills must remain a high priority if students are to be adequately prepared to practice.

Other important areas of concern the Board expressed include:

- **Integration of education, internship, and practice** by encouraging the overlap of these activities: The Board will promote hands-on practice hours as a requirement for graduation; a more comprehensive approach to understanding the regulatory environment that controls the design and construction of buildings; and a stronger emphasis on technical and business management skills.
- **Improved leadership and collaboration skills** to support the interactive and inclusionary nature of the design process and the ability to lead the integration of project stakeholders and interdisciplinary teams through the design process.
- **Sustainable building concepts and their appropriate application** to the built environment: The Board supports these concepts, especially a return to the fundamentals of passive design.
- **Knowledge and understanding of global issues** that affect the responsible practice of architecture.

This chance to inform the accreditation process is one of the most important opportunities facing us today, and it will have far-reaching effects on the future of tomorrow's professionals.

## New and Improved Board Web Site

The California Architects Board's Web site ([www.cab.ca.gov](http://www.cab.ca.gov)) has a new look and feel. The colors and layout of our site as well as the organization of the information have changed to provide greater accessibility. The redesign makes it easier and more intuitive for consumers, candidates, and licensees to find the information they need. The 21st century is the "Digital Millennium," and the Web plays an integral part in the Board's communications with the public. The Board will continue to strive to make its Web site a valuable resource for those it serves.

## Careers Web Site

The California Architects Board will be launching its Career Web Site this summer. It is designed to offer a convenient online resource for high school and college students and others interested in pursuing architectural careers in the state of California.

A few other Web sites cater to prospective candidates and students. However, until now there has been no one place to obtain comprehensive student-focused information that includes the California-specific internship and exam requirements.

The impetus behind this new Web site is the need for California licensed architects to emphasize the exciting opportunities available in the profession. The Web site's main sections are "What is an Architect?" and "Become an Architect." The latter section explains both national and Board requirements and the many paths to licensure. We invite our readers to check the Board's Web site ([www.cab.ca.gov](http://www.cab.ca.gov)) in July for a link to the new career Web site.

## 2007 Octavius Morgan Award Winners

John Canestro, Continued from page 1

Building Officials (CALBO), including one year as its president. "My work with CALBO enabled me to act as a link between the Board and building officials. I was able to communicate the thoughts of the Board to building officials and then bring their input back to the Board." Canestro says that his work in this area facilitated the development of mutual trust between the Board and building officials.

Canestro continues to enjoy his work with the Board. "The Regulatory and Enforcement Committee includes a great group of people who are interested in keeping architects informed about regulations."

When asked how he feels about receiving the award, Canestro says, "I was flabbergasted. I just never expected it. I hold the people who have received it in the past in high regard, and I appreciate the Board's recognition of my participation."

### **Gerald Cole** *Riverside*

Gerald Cole first became interested in drafting during high school. Following two years at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, Cole began working for an architectural firm. "While I was at the firm, I was exposed to every aspect of architecture," says Cole. "I began taking night classes at California Polytechnic State University, Pomona and University of California, Los Angeles. After several

years, I was prepared to take the exam and receive my license." Cole is currently a partner in the firm Cole and Frick, which specializes in industrial and office projects.

In the mid-eighties, when Cole was asked to serve as a volunteer for the Board, he was very excited about the prospect. "I thought it was a great opportunity to give back to a profession that has given so much to me," he says.

Cole has been involved in all phases of the California Supplemental Examination (CSE), including serving as a CSE Commissioner and Master Commissioner; serving on the CSE Item Writing Committee; and being involved in the CSE Commissioner Review and Pilot Testing. He was also a member of the CSE Standard Setting Committee and worked on the 2007 CSE Occupational Analysis. The Board gave Cole an Octavius Morgan award in recognition of his significant contributions to the quality of the CSE throughout the past few decades.

His time as a CSE Commissioner before the exam became scenario-based in 1998 gives Cole an interesting perspective. "I think the change was a major benefit to the candidates," he says. "Now the questions relate to potential real-life situations rather than being hypothetical. This makes the process more relevant."

Throughout his many years of service, Cole has enjoyed every aspect of being a Board volunteer, but he says certain parts stand out. "I particularly enjoy being on the Item Writing Committee and helping to create the questions for the CSE," Cole says. "It helps me to stay up-to-date on what is happening in the profession."

Being a CSE Commissioner and seeing how candidates respond to questions has supported Cole's work on the Item Writing Committee. "It gives me a better perspective on the actual exam process, which is valuable in developing the questions."

Cole's involvement in the Board's 2007 CSE Occupational Analysis allowed him to see how much the profession has changed over the years. "The most significant change since I was licensed is that the approval process required by cities and counties is much more complex," Cole says. "This has an enormous impact on how we spend our time and what we need to be knowledgeable about."

In summing up his many years of experience with the Board, Cole says, "Being a volunteer has given me an opportunity to see how the process of licensing works from beginning to end to produce qualified architects. I have enjoyed the work and feel quite honored to receive the award."

Continued on page 7



## New Step in ARE Eligibility Process

**The California Architects Board (CAB) allows candidates who have five years of post-secondary education and/or work experience under the direct supervision of a licensed architect to sit for the Architect Registration Examination (ARE) before completing the required training program, the Intern Development Program (IDP) and the Comprehensive Intern Development Program (CIDP).**

IDP is the nationally recognized training program for interns administered and maintained by NCARB. CIDP is the evidence-based overlay required by CAB that is completed simultaneously with the IDP requirement.

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) recently amended their requirements relating to the sequencing of IDP and the ARE. This amendment still allows candidates in California to begin taking the ARE before completing IDP. It only changes the point at which candidates must enroll in IDP. Effective July 1, 2008 (pending regulatory approval), new or inactive candidates applying for eligibility evaluation for the ARE must enroll in IDP by establishing a Council Record with NCARB prior to eligibility for the examination. Candidates who have a valid eligibility on file with CAB on or before June 30, 2008, may take the ARE without first enrolling in IDP.

Candidates should ensure they have met the eligibility requirements to participate in CIDP/IDP. Those requirements are as follows:

- Three years in a National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) or Canadian Architectural Certification Board (CACB) accredited professional degree program;
- Currently enrolled in the third year of a four-year pre-professional degree program in architecture accepted for direct entry to a NAAB- or CACB-accredited professional degree program;
- One year in a NAAB- or CACB-accredited Master of Architecture degree program for candidates with undergraduate degrees in another discipline;
- 96 semester credit hours as evaluated by NAAB in accordance with NCARB's education requirement, of which no more than 60 hours can be in the general education subject area; or

- Three years of education equivalents based on CAB's Table of Equivalents, as evaluated by CAB (see CAB's Web site at [www.cab.ca.gov](http://www.cab.ca.gov) under Candidate Information for the Table of Equivalents).

Once candidates have met the eligibility requirements to participate in CIDP/IDP, they need to establish a file with both NCARB and CAB. To establish a file with NCARB, candidates are required to:

- Apply to NCARB to initiate an IDP Council Record (\$285 fee);
- Identify an individual (usually a licensed architect) as the IDP supervisor who will meet regularly with them to review training progress and verify the IDP training report; and
- Choose a licensed architect as the IDP mentor to meet with them to review training progress and to sign the IDP Training Report. The IDP supervisor can be the IDP mentor.

To establish a file with CAB, candidates are required to submit the *Application for Eligibility Evaluation – Architect Registration Examination* and fee of \$100. This fee is to determine eligibility for the ARE. The fee is not related to the CIDP requirement.

Once candidates have verified five years of educational equivalents as evaluated by CAB, have been deemed eligible, and have established an IDP Council Record with NCARB, they may begin taking the ARE. Documentation of meeting the educational/experience requirement will take the form of transcripts and *Employment Verification Forms*. Candidates can download the necessary forms from the Board's Web site at [www.cab.ca.gov](http://www.cab.ca.gov).

In California, candidates may simultaneously take and complete the ARE while participating in CIDP/IDP, but once the regulatory change is approved, they must first be *enrolled* in CIDP/IDP. Other states may have different requirements. Candidates should check with other states regarding enrollment in IDP prior to taking the ARE if they are seeking licensure outside of California.

Questions regarding the CIDP/IDP requirements can be directed to the CAB's Written Examination Unit at (916) 574-7215 or emailed to [cab@dca.ca.gov](mailto:cab@dca.ca.gov).

## Job Analysis Survey and Examination Development Update

The California Architects Board (CAB) requires all candidates seeking licensure as architects in California to successfully complete a written/graphic exam and a supplemental exam. The written exam is the national Architect Registration Examination (ARE), which is developed and administered by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB). The supplemental exam is an oral exam called the California Supplemental Examination (CSE), which is administered by CAB.

Many California architects participate in the development of the CSE. As part of CAB's regular and ongoing effort to maintain the validity of the CSE, we are in the process of developing new forms.

The CSE development process begins with a Job Analysis Survey that asks California architects the frequency and/or importance of tasks and knowledge areas that comprise the practice of architecture. From this data, a test plan is developed, which includes a comparison of the tasks and knowledge areas from the Job Analysis Survey to the test specifications for the ARE. The test plan for the CSE includes those areas that relate to California-specific issues (such as accessibility, energy efficiency, and seismic safety) in addition to those areas not sufficiently covered or not covered in the ARE.

CAB held several item-writing sessions this year during which California architects developed exam questions and corresponding grading criteria, as well as hypothetical project scenarios upon which the exams are based. The new forms of the CSE will be pilot tested with recently licensed architects and reviewed by a group of architect commissioners who regularly administer the exam.

The new CSE forms will be administered beginning January 2009 and will be comparable to those currently administered.

## Architects Registration Examination (ARE)

RELEASE OF VERSION 4.0

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB) has reformatted the Architect Registration Examination (ARE) 3.1. The new ARE 4.0 will be available beginning July 1, 2008.

The newly formatted exam will be more integrative, with six divisions that contain both graphic vignettes and multiple-choice questions and one division that contains only graphic vignettes. According to NCARB, the goal in creating ARE 4.0 is to better integrate the examination, while improving the assessment of a candidate's knowledge, skill, and ability to practice architecture independently.

Candidates who have not passed any division of ARE 3.1 prior to May 13, 2008, will not be affected by the transition to ARE 4.0, and they will begin taking ARE 4.0 when it is launched on July 1, 2008. Candidates who have passed at least one division of ARE 3.1 prior to May 13, 2008, will have until June 30, 2009, to pass all remaining divisions of ARE 3.1. Those who have not passed all divisions by this deadline will be required to transition to ARE 4.0 for any remaining divisions.

Candidates are encouraged to visit NCARB's Web site at [www.ncarb.org](http://www.ncarb.org) for further information, the latest update on ARE 4.0, and the transition plan for candidates currently taking ARE 3.1.





# Enforcement Actions

**CAB is responsible for receiving and investigating complaints against licensees and unlicensed persons. CAB also retains the authority to make final decisions on all enforcement actions taken against its licensees. Included below is a brief description of recent enforcement actions taken by CAB against individuals who were found to be in violation of the Architects Practice Act.**

**Every effort is made to ensure the following information is correct. Before making any decision based upon this information, you should contact CAB. Further information on specific violations may also be obtained by contacting the Board's Enforcement Unit at (916) 575-7208.**

## **CITATIONS**

### **JOSE MARTINEZ** (Chula Vista)

The Board issued an administrative citation that included a \$2,500 civil penalty to Jose Martinez, an unlicensed individual, for alleged violations of Business and Professions Code sections 5536(a) (Practice Without License or Holding Self Out as Architect) and 5536.1(c) (Unauthorized Practice). The action alleged that Martinez forged an architect's signature and affixed an architect's stamp to the drawings which read: "Licensed Architect," "a licensee's name and license number," "Exp. 02-28-09," and the legend "State of California." In addition, the project is described as converting a house into a warehouse/office. A change in occupancy requires documents prepared for this project to be signed by a licensed design professional; therefore, this project is not a building described in BPC section 5537(a) as an exempt building. The citation became effective on February 26, 2008.

### **BRUCE GREGORY OVESON** (Vacaville)

The Board issued an administrative citation that included a \$500 civil penalty to Bruce Gregory Oveson, an unlicensed individual, for an alleged violation of BPC section 5536(a) (Practice Without License or Holding Self Out as Architect). The

action alleged that Oveson submitted a resume to BSB Design in El Dorado Hills, California. Oveson's resume stated that he holds an architect license in California. BSB hired Oveson on April 11, 2005, with the understanding that he was a licensed architect in California. Oveson's California architect license had expired on November 30, 1997, and was not renewable. The citation became effective on March 17, 2008.

**GARY A. ROGERS** (Clovis) The Board issued an administrative citation that included a \$500 civil penalty to Gary A. Rogers, architect license number C-16583, for an alleged violation of BPC section 5536.22(a) (Written Contract). The action alleged that Rogers failed to execute a written contract when providing professional services to a client. The citation became effective on March 25, 2008.

### **CHARLES JOHN STAFF III**

(Los Angeles) The Board issued an administrative citation that included a \$750 civil penalty to Charles John Staff III, architect license number C-22189, for an alleged violation of BPC section 5536.22(a) (Written Contract). The action alleged that Staff was hired to design an addition and remodel of a residence. He

failed to finalize terms and to obtain the client's signature on a written agreement prior to commencing his professional services on the project. The client believed Staff was to provide construction observation, however, since there was no executed agreement, site observation services and/or responsibility for providing them was ultimately disputed. Due to alleged defects in the construction of the project, the client initiated arbitration proceedings against the contractor and Staff, which resulted in a settlement and mutual release agreement, with Staff paying \$40,000 and the contractor paying \$510,000. The citation became effective on January 24, 2008.

### **TOMMIE WILLIAMS** (Rancho Cordova)

The Board issued an administrative citation that included a \$500 civil penalty to Tommie Williams, an unlicensed individual, for an alleged violation of BPC section 5536(a) (Practice Without License or Holding Self Out as Architect). The action alleged that Williams signed a contract to remodel a residence. The contract included Mr. Williams' letterhead, which stated "Williams Architectural Designs." The citation became effective on February 11, 2008.



## 2007 Octavius Morgan Award Winners

Gerald Cole, Continued from page 3

Cole encourages all new architects to take the time to volunteer. "It benefits us as professionals, because it allows us to keep up with changes in architecture."

### Michelle Plotnik *Murphys*

Michelle Plotnik remembers visiting open houses with her grandparents when she was five- or six-years-old, then drawing up her ideas for improvements to the kids' quarters. "I am not sure I knew what an architect was, but I definitely liked to draw buildings," says Plotnik.

Her interest in buildings remained, and in 1978, Plotnik graduated from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo with a B.S. in architecture. After working with several firms in the Bay Area and Sierra Foothills, Plotnik opened her own small firm in rural Murphys, California. She works on a range of projects, including high-end custom residential as well as commercial and public agency projects.

Plotnik's interest in helping in the administration of the CSE began when she first took the exam. "I was curious about how they were graded and what happened during the process," she says. "A few years later, I received a letter inviting me to get involved."

Her involvement began as a CSE Commissioner, and she later served as a CSE Master Commissioner and on the Master Commissioner Review. Plotnik was also a member of the CSE Job Analysis, CSE Standard Setting, and CSE Item Writing committees, as well as working on the 2007 CSE Occupational Analysis.

The Board selected Plotnik for an Octavius Morgan award for her involvement in the CSE, her commitment to ongoing improvement in the exam, and her insights into the exam process that have helped ensure its continued relevance.

Plotnik says that being a CSE Commissioner has helped in her own practice. "It provides a great opportunity to talk to other architects," she says. "I learn something new every time."

According to Plotnik, being involved in more than one part of the CSE process is definitely an advantage. "When we give the exam, as commissioners, we don't think about how the questions relate to the test plan, and we don't know what the thought process was in creating the questions," she explains. "Being involved in developing the exam allows me to see how the questions evolve. I am continually

impressed by the fair and conscientious process that is used to create an exam that allows candidates to demonstrate that they are ready to be licensed."

Another part of the CSE process that ensures its fairness is the Commissioner Review. "Members of the exam development committee can become almost 'too close' to the exam and can lose their objectivity," says Plotnik. "Allowing other architects to review the exam at an early stage restores that objectivity."

Plotnik says she was surprised and flattered to receive the award. "I have seen it being given many times, and I have always been impressed with the people who have volunteered so much of their time. It amazes me that I have been selected to join that group."

Being an architect continues to be a rewarding career for Plotnik. "I love architecture," she says. "I enjoy the puzzle-like aspect of integrating the needs of the owners and users of a building with the physical, legal, and engineering constraints to come up with something that works for everybody. I would definitely do it all again."



## Reminder

The **2007 California Building Standards Code (CBSC)** became effective on January 1, 2008. It contains 12 parts that incorporate public health, life safety, and general welfare standards used in the design and construction of buildings in California. For more information about the CBSC, please visit [www.bsc.ca.gov](http://www.bsc.ca.gov).

California Building Officials continue to offer training classes about the new codes. For information, please visit [www.calbo.org](http://www.calbo.org).

# architects

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## In This Issue

## Spring 2008

2007 Octavius Morgan Award Winners .....	1
President's Message .....	2
New & Improved Board Web Site .....	2
Careers Web Site .....	2
CIDP/IDP: New Step in ARE Eligibility Process .....	4
Job Analysis Survey and Examination Development Update.....	5
ARE Release of Version 4.0 .....	5
Enforcement Actions .....	6

### ARCHITECT REGISTRATION EXAMINATION

California candidates took 9,016 divisions of the Architect Registration Examination in 2007. Results are listed below.

DIVISION	NUMBER OF CANDIDATES	TOTAL PASSED		TOTAL FAILED	
		# Candidates	% Passed	# Candidates	% Failed
Pre-Design	1069	745	70%	324	30%
Site Planning	1007	633	63%	374	37%
Building Planning	969	586	60%	383	40%
Building Technology	1052	677	64%	375	36%
General Structures	871	606	70%	265	30%
Lateral Forces	755	585	77%	170	23%
Building Design/ Materials & Methods	1027	697	68%	330	32%
Mechanical & Electrical Systems	1140	722	63%	418	37%
Construction Documents	1126	755	67%	371	33%

### CALIFORNIA SUPPLEMENTAL EXAMINATION

The California Supplemental Examination was administered 7 times in 2007. 1,242 candidates were scheduled in 2007. Overall results for exams taken January-December 2007 are as follows:

TYPE OF CANDIDATE	NUMBER OF CANDIDATES	TOTAL PASSED	TOTAL FAILED
Instate First Time	377	198 (53%)	179 (47%)
Instate Repeat	374	173 (46%)	201 (54%)
Reciprocity First Time	176	75 (43%)	101 (57%)
Reciprocity Repeat	117	52 (44%)	65 (56%)
Relicensure First Time	2	0 (0%)	2 (100%)
Relicensure Repeat	2	2 (100%)	0 (0%)
TOTALS	1048	500 (48%)	548 (52%)

508 new architect licenses were issued in 2007.

## To Get In Touch With Us

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